

# International Council of Onomastic Sciences



Newsletter 18  
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President of ICOS

Sheila Embleton, York University (Canada)

Secretary of ICOS and Newsletter editor

Elwys De Stefani, Berne University (Switzerland)

## 1. Proceedings of the 23<sup>rd</sup> ICOS Congress, Toronto, August 17-22, 2008

The Proceedings of the 23<sup>rd</sup> International Congress of Onomastic Sciences, entitled *Names in Multi-Lingual, Multi-Cultural and Multi-Ethnic Contact*, have recently been published in CD format. The work is about 1100 pages long and contains about 120 articles. CDs have recently been mailed to all Congress participants who paid a full registration fee.

CDs can also be obtained by contacting Professor Wolfgang Ahrens, Department of Languages, Literatures and Linguistics, York University, Toronto, Ontario, M3J 1P3, Canada, [wahrens@yorku.ca](mailto:wahrens@yorku.ca). The cost per CD is \$12.00 CDN or \$12.00 US for orders from North America, and \$15.00 CDN, \$15.00 US or 10.00 EUR for orders from elsewhere. Payments can be made by cheques drawn on a Canadian or US Bank, or by direct bank transfer to an account in Finland or Canada. Details of payment methods will be given individually when you make your request.

The Proceedings will also be published on-line, permanently housed on a York University site (Yorkspace). The tentative site will be <http://pi.library.yorku.ca/dspace/handle/10315/2901>. Access will be linked through your web browser, such as Google, to individual articles and to the entire work. The work will be posted gradually over the next few weeks and all of it will be available by the end of February 2010. This is a work in progress and corrections will be continually implemented as the articles are being mounted. So, please be patient if you find that your article has not been mounted yet, but someone else's has been. This would not be an oversight, just a reflection of a work in progress. Also, if you find errors as soon as an article has been mounted, please wait before informing Prof. Ahrens, as corrections may still be made, when someone proofreads the posting.

## 2. Information from the ONOMA editor-in-chief

Onoma 41 (2006) on Name Theory (Richard Coates): the preliminary editorial work of the ONOMA 41 papers is almost complete.

Onoma 42 (2007) on Urban Toponymy (Staffan Nyström): the corrected print proofs have been sent to the publisher.

Onoma 43 (2008) on Commercial Names (Antje Zilg, Angelika Bergien and Ludger Kremer): 19 articles have been received; abstracts are translated already. The guest editors and authors of the papers are actively working on a revised version based on the comments by the Editorial Board. Probably this volume can be published early 2010.

Onoma 44 (2009) on African Onomastics (Adrian Koopman): three articles have been received; seven articles are expected to come in in the next weeks.

Onoma 45 (2010) on the History of Onomastics (Maria Giovanna Arcamone and Martina Pitz): a Call for Papers has been circulated. (See section 7.)

Onoma 46 (2011) on Names and Minorities (Dunja Brozović Rončević): a Call for Papers has been circulated. (See section 7.)

Onoma 47 (2012): Dieter Kremer plans to produce a volume on Names and Occupations

Doreen Gerritzen, 17<sup>th</sup> December 2009

### 3. Program of the ICOS Terminology Group Meeting, December 12, 2009

#### Main Topic: Synergy Effects in Terminology

Austrian Academy of Sciences Centre of Linguistics  
and Audiovisual Documentation Institute  
of the Lexicography of Austrian Dialects and Names  
Wohllebengasse 12-14  
1040 Vienna, Austria

#### Organization:

Isolde HAUSNER, Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften  
Milan HARVALÍK, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic Prague  
Julia KUHN, FSU Jena und Wirtschaftsuniversität Wien

9h Opening session, introductory comments by the organizers  
9.30h Scientific Statements

Staffan Nyström (Uppsala Universitet, Sweden): "The terminology of UNGEGN and ICOS: do we really need two internationally used term lists?"

Dunja Brozović Rončević (Institut za hrvatski jezik i jezikoslovlje, Zagreb, Croatia): "Report of the last ICOS Terminology meeting"

Milan Harvalík (Ústavu pro jazyk český Akademie věd ČR, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic Prague, Czech Republic): "Onomastic terminology: an international survey"  
Discussion

12.30h Lunch Break

14h Workshop Terminology  
18h Discussion of the results

### 4. Mailing list on Urban Place Names

The Organizers of the International Symposium on Urban Place Names (Helsinki, August, 13-16, 2009) have set up a mailing list for scholars interested in urban place names. The list is based in the UK and managed by Duncan Light. The mailing list encourages discussions and announcements of forthcoming conferences, relevant literature, etc.

Anyone interested in urban place names is welcome to join it, by following the instructions below:

- 1) Go to <http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/urban-place-names>
- 2) Click on 'Join or Leave URBAN-PLACE-NAMES'
- 3) Enter your name on the first line and your email address on the second line
- 4) Change any of the settings below if you want to (but you do not need to change any of them) then click on 'Join URBAN-PLACE-NAMES' at the bottom of the page

If you experience any difficulties in joining the list please contact Duncan Light at [Lightd@hope.ac.uk](mailto:Lightd@hope.ac.uk)

## 5. Dyos Prize 2009

The editorial board of *Urban History* (Cambridge University Press) has awarded the Dyos Prize for 2009 to Heikki Paunonen, Jani Vuolteenaho and Terhi Ainiola (member of the ICOS Board of Directors) for their paper "Industrial urbanization, working-class lads and slang toponyms in early twentieth-century Helsinki", *Urban History* 36 (3), 449-472. The award commemorates the British urban historian Harold James Dyos (1921-1978).

## 6. Names of the Year of the American Name Society

"Salish Sea" was chosen Name of the Year by the American Name Society at its annual meeting in Baltimore, Maryland on January 9, 2010.

Salish Sea was also the Place Name of the Year. This name, created by marine biologist Bart Webber in 1988, was officially adopted as the collective name for the interior ocean waters of British Columbia and Washington state. The Salish Sea stretches from Olympia, WA to Desolation Sound in BC and includes Puget Sound, the Strait of Juan de Fuca, and the Strait of Georgia. The US Board on Geographic Names approved the name on November 12, 2009, after it had previously been accepted by the Geographic Names board of Canada. Webber wanted a single name for this entire body of water because it forms a connected marine ecosystem. "Salish" was chosen because most of the Native American nations who lived in the area spoke languages that were part of the Coast Salish family.

"Twitter" was chosen as Trade Name of the Year. Although Twitter was launched in 2006, this was the year it was taken seriously as a global phenomenon. It played a major part in the protests in Iran after the disputed June election. "Twitter" was the year's fastest-rising Google search, and it made Google's global list (at #4) for the first time ever.

"Max" was voted Fictional Name of the Year because of the child hero of the classic children's book *Where the Wild Things Are* by Maurice Sendak, and the 2009 film based on it. The fact that many young parents were read the book as a child helps account for Max, Maxwell, and similar names being popular baby names today.

"Chesley Burnett 'Sully' Sullenberger III" was voted Personal Name of the Year. The name of the pilot who safely landed an airliner on the Hudson River last January illustrates how a name some might find odd and even nerdy can gain a heroic image from current events. ANS members also voted to create a special Miscellaneous Name of the Year for "H1N1", the name of the influenza virus that caused worldwide concern in 2009. The replacement of the term "swine flu" by this scientific clinical term was an unusual example of government pronouncements successfully changing a popular public term.

The American Name Society, founded in 1950, is an organization devoted to promoting the study of all aspects of names and naming. For more information, contact Dr. Cleveland K. Evans at [Cleveland.evans@bellevue.edu](mailto:Cleveland.evans@bellevue.edu), or 402-210-7458, or 402-557-7524.

Source: American Name Society

## 7. Calls for papers

**ONOMA 45 (2010): *The History and Significance of Onomastics in Diachrony and Synchrony*, edited by Maria Giovanna Arcamone (Pisa) and Martina Pitz (Lyon)**

[arcamone@ling.unipi.it](mailto:arcamone@ling.unipi.it)

[pitz@univ-lyon3.fr](mailto:pitz@univ-lyon3.fr)

The choice of this theme rests on the observation that during the classical era of historical and comparative linguistics proper names were still perceived as central subject matter for research and held in corresponding regard, whilst at the beginning of the 21st century there are those who have a gloomy view of the tasks and prospects of onomastics. It has often been alleged that this linguistic subdiscipline has, to some extent at least, lost connection with general trends within linguistics. It would not be wrong to assume that onomastics is right now engaged in a process of collective reflexion to map out for itself new scientific subject matter and goals. This is leading to the opening-up of many new avenues of investigation. Its practitioners are developing a new understanding of the subject as a discipline equally amenable to the framing of both synchronic and diachronic questions; new research fields are opening up in literary onomastics, the analysis of product-names and brand-names, and socio-onomastics, and a synergy is developing between onomastics and discourse analysis.

ONOMA 45 wishes to pursue the question of which concrete developments have led to noteworthy advances in onomastics since the beginnings of scientific interest in investigating names, and which may lead to further advances. This can be achieved through studies with descriptive, history of science and/or methodological orientations, with no restriction on the range of languages or sub-areas of onomastics represented. What has led in the past to new momentum, and what may therefore again make onomastics an attractive area in which to work? Is it new scope for tapping into sources, and, relatedly, technical advances in handling these sources using IT and new media? Or the introduction of new methods in linguistics and new approaches to interpretation? Or the formulation of new questions and the opening-up of new areas? Or that much-vaunted interdisciplinary orientation: contact and dialogue with disciplines beyond linguistics?

We call for articles in the following areas:

- History and significance of onomastics in the field of ancient languages
- History and significance of literary onomastics
- History and significance of socio-onomastics
- History and significance of onomastics in education
- History and significance of onomastics in institutions (e.g. counties, communities, provinces)
- History and significance of onomastics in particular countries, etc.
- History and significance of onomastics in informatics

We invite interested colleagues to submit, by **15 February 2010**, a title and a short abstract of about 10-15 lines to both the following addresses:

[arcamone@ling.unipi.it](mailto:arcamone@ling.unipi.it) and [pitz@univ-lyon3.fr](mailto:pitz@univ-lyon3.fr)

Authors of suggestions which are accepted will be informed by 28 February 2010. Completed articles, which should not exceed 15-20 pages in length, must be submitted by **31 August 2010** at the latest. They may be submitted in English, French or German.

## **ONOMA 46 (2011): Names in minority cultures, edited by Dunja Brozović (Zagreb)**

[dunja@ihjj.hr](mailto:dunja@ihjj.hr)

Since the topic of names in minority cultures has not yet been comprehensively analyzed from the onomastic point of view, we decided to approach this theme from a rather wide perspective and cover both place names and personal names.

This volume of Onoma should treat names in minority cultures in a very comprehensive way: historically, geographically, anthropologically, theoretically, methodically. To achieve this, the guest editor shall prioritize between suggested articles and steer the perspectives and contents of the volume.

Articles of a purely descriptive nature, merely reporting what names of various indigenous, minority and regional language groups exist in a certain multicultural and multilingual environment, will not be accepted. Instead I will give precedence to articles focusing on particular aspects, methods, problems such as:

- indigenous, minority and regional language group names as a reflection of identity
- official and non-official minority place names: relations, differences, similarities in various multilingual cultures
- status of minority place names from a legal point of view
- contrasting studies comparing minority names in various countries
- promotion of the use of indigenous and minority group geographical names
- a diachronic development of names of minority groups in relation to non-linguistic factors
- linguistic structural studies treating minority names as a category in relation to other names
- adoption of minority family names in multicultural societies (historical, social, anthropological, linguistic perspective)
- other theoretical or methodical studies of common onomastic interest based on, or focusing on, minority names.

**First step:** Those of you who are interested, please indicate your interest in participation by **January 31st 2010**.

**Second step:** Please send a short (max. 400 words) abstract no later than February 28th 2010, preferably by e-mail, presenting the basic content in the article you wish to submit for this volume. Based on these abstracts, the guest editor and the Editorial Board will make a provisional selection before the next step is taken.

**Third step:** Scholars whose articles are provisionally accepted for Onoma 46 will receive further instructions during April 2010. The complete articles must be delivered to us no later than September 30th 2010. The final decision about acceptance will be based on peer reviews of the articles and appraisal by the Editorial Board.

Abstracts and (later) full articles are accepted in English, French or German.

## **The 16<sup>th</sup> International Congress of the Names Society of Southern Africa (NSA), October, 26-28, 2010**

All names scholars are cordially invited to the NSA Congress that will be held at Club Mykonos, a seaside resort on the South African West Coast (Atlantic Ocean) on 26, 27 and 28 October 2010. The resort is about 120 kilometers north of Cape Town (75 minutes by road). Cape Town International Airport is well served by many airlines from all parts of the world.

THEME: HOMO NOMINANS - MANKIND, THE NAMER

Come and join us as we explore the world of naming and the irrepressible urge of mankind to name entities. Naming takes place in many different contexts and any contribution on naming will be considered.

The provisional deadline for paper proposals is **28 February 2010**. The proposal should be in the form of an abstract of 200-300 words. Such proposals can be forwarded to Bertie Neethling at the following e-mail address: [bneethling@uwc.ac.za](mailto:bneethling@uwc.ac.za)

Follow-up communication will be sent to all those who respond. Any early queries around any aspect of the congress, e.g. travelling, accommodation, attractions in the area and also in Cape Town, can be directed to Bertie Neethling at the same e-mail address above. These queries will be responded to immediately.

We look forward to welcoming you at the Congress and also in the Western Cape, an exceptionally beautiful part of the world!

Bertie Neethling  
Vice-President (NSA) and Main Organiser (on behalf of NSA Executive)

### **8. Conference announcements**

American Name Society. Meeting with the Linguistic Society of America, Baltimore (Maryland), January, 7-10, 2010. [past event]

Annual Study Conference. Society for Name Studies in Britain and Ireland, Carmarthen (Wales), March 12-15, 2010.

44<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Canadian Society for the Study of Names / Société canadienne d'onomastique, Montréal (Canada), May 29-30, 2010.

15<sup>ème</sup> Colloque de la Société Française d'Onomastique, Aix-en-Provence (France), June 9-11, 2010.

Perceptions of Place. English place-name study and regional variety, Nottingham (England), June 23-27, 2010.

Trends in Toponymy, Edinburgh (Scotland), June 28- July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010.

First International Conference on Indigenous Place Names, Guovdageaidnu (Norway), September 3-8 2010.

Binamn. Uppkomst, bildning, terminologi och bruk. NORNA-Symposium, Älvkarleö (Uppland, Sweden), September 29 – October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010.

International Conference, Chrematonyms as social phenomena, Olsztyn (Poland), September 2010.

The Geographic Names Conference of the Council of Geographic Names Authorities in the United States, Springfield (Missouri), October 5-9, 2010.

The 16<sup>th</sup> International Congress of the Names Society of Southern Africa (NSA): Homo Nominans – Mankind, the Namer, Club Mykonos (South Africa), October 26-28, 2010.

The 24<sup>th</sup> Congress of the International Council of Onomastic Sciences, Barcelona (Spain), September 4-10, 2011.